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Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir departed Washington 30 November, Jerusalem radio announced, after attending a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where he discussed the situation in Lebanon and agreed to a U.S. proposal calling for greater power for the Lebanese factions. However, Shamir said he "would not agree to changing one word" of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, the radio noted.

Lebanon

President in Washington — President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Washington 1 December. In an arrival statement broadcast by Beirut radio, Al-Jumayyil expressed confidence that the current "impasse" in Lebanon can be overcome within the framework of "American-Lebanese privileged relations" and reaffirmed that his government remains committed to President Reagan's peace initiative.

Military Developments — One French soldier was killed by sniper fire, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, and a French patrol came under RPG fire, according to Beirut radio. The Voice of Lebanon quoted "security sources" as repeating warnings to the Multinational Force on possible attacks. The radio also said that "well over 600 Iranians" armed with medium-caliber weapons entered Beirut on 28 and 29 November and that the Iranian-supported Hezbollah has brought more surface-to-surface missiles and SAM-7's into the southern suburb.

PLO Affairs

The cease-fire between supporters and opponents of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was disrupted by intermittent clashes in various parts of Tripoli, Beirut radio reported. Earlier, 'Arafat met with a delegation from the Tripoli Coordination Committee to discuss arrangements for implementation of the Saudi-Syrian agreement.

In remarks broadcast by the radio, Tripoli Mayor 'Ashir ad-Dayi, a member of the delegation, described the meeting as "very positive," noting that 'Arafat promised to respect the security and safety of the city. 'Arafat informed the committee of his conditions to depart Tripoli, which include demands that Arab League or UN forces supervise implementation of the Damascus agreement and that evacuees leave for specified destinations under security guarantees.

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the chairman of the Coordination Committee, announced in Damascus that he was awaiting replies from 'Arafat and Fatah dissident leader Nimr Salih concerning arrangements for the departure of Palestinian forces from Tripoli, the radio also reported.

Saudi King Fahd issued a Palestine solidarity day message, reported by SPA, in which he denounced Israel's "aggressive and brutal" practices but did not mention the rift within the PLO.

Morocco

King Hassan II appointed a new Cabinet, appointing Mohamed Karim Lamrani prime minister and replacing Maati Bouabid, who became a minister of state, Rabat radio reported. Abdelouahid Belkeziz was appointed minister of foreign affairs. M'hamed Boucetta remains in the Cabinet as a minister of state, although the radio did not say whether he will continue his role in foreign affairs.

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Sarboland Welcomes Tambov Obkom First Secretary
LD301931 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Khomyakov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Supreme Soviet and first secretary of Tambov Obkom, arrived today in Kabul at the head of a delegation from the Union Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries at the invitation of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society to attend the ceremony marking the fifth anniversary of the cooperation and good-neighborliness treaty between the USSR and Afghanistan.

At Kabul Airport the delegation was welcomed by 'Abdol Majid Sarboland, member of the PDPA Central Committee, deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and deputy chief of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society; deputy chiefs of the Central Committee's International Relations Department; some members of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship organization; deputy chief of protocol from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the USSR ambassador in Kabul.

'Abdol Majid Sarboland, member of the PDPA Central Committee, deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and deputy chief of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers this afternoon met Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Khomyakov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Supreme Soviet and first secretary of Tambov Obkom, and his accompanying delegation. This meeting, which took place in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, was attended also by some members of the DRA Peace, Friendship and Solidarity organization and the USSR ambassador in Kabul. At this meeting talks were held on further consolidation of the friendly relations and fraternal cooperation between Afghanistan and the USSR and the results of the work of the two countries' friendship societies.

Mangal, Delegation Depart for USSR Visit
LD301727 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Sarwar Mangal, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and chairman of the DRA State Planning Committee,left for the Soviet Union today to take part in the fifth anniversary celebration of the friendship, cooperation and good-neighborliness treaty between the DRA and the Soviet Union.

Nazar Mohammad, the minister of public works; 'Abdol Samad Qayumi, the minister of education and training; the deputy head of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the deputy head of the DRA State Planning Committee and some heads of departments; and the Soviet minister plenipotentiary in Kabul were present at Kabul Airport to see off the vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Barialay, Delegation Depart for Cuba Visit
LD301732 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Mahmud Barialay, candidate-member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, heading a party delegation, left for Cuba today for an official and friendly visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Mohammad Esma'il Danesh, candidate Politburo member and the minister of mines and industries; Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the party Central Committee; deputy ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; deputy heads of the party Department of International Relations; deputy head of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the ambassador of Cuba in Kabul were present at Kabul Airport to see the delegation off.

Baghlan Province 'Rebels' Routed, Arrested
LD301749 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] A group of rebels — these treacherous elements to the homeland, people, and revolution — who had been disrupting the peaceful life of the toiling people in the (Kowhr Tepa) and Hasan Tal regions of Baghlan in Baghlan Province, were recently routed by the Baghlan tribal battalion, and a number of them were arrested.

A Baghlan Province Security force spokesman said that weapons, a large quantity of ammunition, as well as documents proving their links with counterrevolutionary groups abroad, were seized from the criminals by the security forces.

SPA: Soviet MIG-23 Shot Down in Ghowr Province
LD302023 Riyadh SPA in English 1927 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 30, SPA — A Soviet MIG-23 aircraft was shot down by the mujahideen anti-aircraft fire in Ghowr Province in central Afghanistan, semi-official news agency *PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL* (PPI) reported today

The agency said the MIG was on a bombing mission over mujahideen hideouts in Ghowr.

Meanwhile, the *AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS* (AIP) said the mujahideen ran over a communist post at Pul-e-surkhab [agency spelling], five [distance not specified] west of eastern Nangarhar Province on November 24. Seventeen Afghan militiamen were killed during the operation and four captured alive, it added.

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Reportage on Islamic Conference Organization Meetings

Senior Officials Arrive

BK030654 Dhaka BSS in English 0640 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 3 BSS — Over hundred senior officials of the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] member countries and from its Jidda Secretariat arrived here yesterday for the two-day preparatory official-level meeting which begins tomorrow.

The official level meeting will be followed by the five-day 14th conference of the Islamic Foreign Ministers (ICFM) from Tuesday (December 6).

Officials so far arrived are from Algeria, Bahrain, Cameroon, Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Niger, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierre Leone, Sudan, Somalia, Turkey, Tunisia and Yemen Arab Republic.

Yesterday's arrivals included foreign secretaries of Pakistan and Turkey and two assistant secretary generals of OIC Secretariat. More senior officials are expected to reach later today.

Agenda Discussed

BK040720 Dhaka BSS in English 0700 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Dhaka Dec 4 (BSS) — A two-day meeting of the officials of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the member states began here this morning to discuss the provisional agenda for the 14th Islamic foreign ministers' conference beginning on Tuesday.

The official level meeting will also record the work programme for the conference.

Meanwhile more than 200 officials and delegates to the foreign ministers conference have already arrived in the city. Delegates who have already arrived are from: Uganda, Bahrain, Senegal, Iran, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Syria, Tunisia, Algeria, Turkey and Cameroon.

Ministers Arrive

BK040910 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Islamic foreign ministers have started arriving in Dhaka to take part in the 14th OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] foreign ministers conference beginning on Tuesday. The first to arrive in the capital this morning include the Upper Volta foreign minister, Mr Hama Arba Diallo, and Sierra Leone foreign minister, Mr Abduallah A. Osman.

Meanwhile, the meeting of the senior officials of the OIC member countries began in Dhaka this morning to prepare the agenda for presentation to the plenary session of the foreign ministers conference. The Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr Ataul Karim, is presidiung the meeting.

Turkish Cypriot Arrival Noted

BK040915 Dhaka BSS in English 0727 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 4 (BSS) — The foreign minister of Turkish Cypriot Republic of Northern Cyprus, Mr Atakol arrived here today to attend the 5-day Islamic conference of foreign ministers beginning here on Tuesday. Foreign minister A.R.S. Doha received the Mr Atakol at the airport.

Habib Chatti, Delegates Arrive

BK050903 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] secretary general and foreign ministers of another six Islamic countries arrived in Dhaka this morning to attend the 14th Islamic foreign ministers conference beginning tomorrow. The foriegn minister, Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha, received them at the airport. The OIC secretary general, Mr Habib Chatti, on his arrival expressed the hope that the Dhaka conference of Islamic ministers would pave the way for further solidarity among the Muslim community.

The foreign ministers who arrived this morning are:—[all names as heard] Mr Idi Ummer Rou of Niger, Mr 'Ali Amaiyah of South Yemen, Mr Ahmad al-Asbahi of North Yemen, Mr Abdurrahman Barre of Somalia, Mr Said Kafe of Comoros, and Mr Abdul Wahed of Morocco. Besides, the industries minister of Djibouti, Fahmy Ahmed, and the Sudanese state minister for foreign affairs, Mr Mustafa Madani, also arrived today.

Ataul Karim Opens Meeting

BK041703 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The Islamic foreign ministers have started arriving in Dhaka for the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] conference beginning on Tuesday. The first to arrive in the capital today included the Sierra Leone's foreign minister, Mr Abdullah A. Osman, the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the Maldives foreign minister, Mr Fatullah Jameel. They were received at the airport by the foreign minister, Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha.

Meanwhile, senior officials of the OIC countries ended their meeting in Dhaka today. They met for 6 hours in two sessions. An official spokesman briefing newsmen at the media center of the conference venue said the senior officials adopted a draft agenda for the conference. It will be submitted to the foreign ministers' meeting for their consideration and approval. The spokesman said the officials also assigned functions of the main committees of the conference. Organizational work of the conference was also finalized at the meeting.

In reply to a question, he said the Turkish Cypriots have been given observer status at the OIC meet and their representatives are already in the capital. A large number of foreign and local journalists were present at the briefing. Our diplomatic cor

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Karmal Chairs PDPA Session on Land Reform

LD062049 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, today at Revolutionary Council headquarters chaired the session of the PDPA Central Committee and Council of Ministers commission on continuing the implementation of land reform.

At this session, the draft amendment and [words indistinct] in Decree No 8 of the Revolutionary Council, law relating to land ownership, and regulation No 1 of Decree No 8 were discussed. In the draft, as supplements to Decree No 8 of the law relating to land ownership and regulation No 1 of Decree No 8, many facilities for peasants and for expediting land reform affairs under the present circumstances of the national and democratic revolution are envisaged.

In accordance with this draft, the legal difficulties which existed on the way for the speedy implementation of land reform are being removed, and the peasants can now easily obtain their land title deeds. A provision of the above draft amendment states:— The registration of lands within the specified limits and lands distributed to all peasants and land owners, who are receiving land title deeds, will take place free of charge.

One of the major and fundamental issues which has been proposed in the draft supplement No 2 of the Revolutionary Council's Decree No 8 is the formation of the village council of peasants. The village council of peasants will be elected by the village peasants at a general meeting. This council is the legal representative of the village's peasants for the solution of issues relating to the improvement of land utilization, [word indistinct] and to democratize land and water relations in the village, and will also resolve arguments arising from the implementation of land and water reform.

The above draft on the amendment and completion of a number of the provisions of Decree No 8, its No 1 regulation and land ownership law, was approved by the commission and was handed over to the DRA Council of Ministers so that its legal formalities are completed and implemented as soon as possible.

Babrak Karmal criticized the slow completion of land reform and gave instruction to the effect that by the application of the new draft, the system and methods of work should be rectified and the implementation of the democratic land reform should be expedited. Babrak Karmal instructed the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform to present a report to the party and government authorities on the work already carried out in the country regarding the completion of land reform. He urged that assistance be given to peasants via the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform and Agricultural Development Bank.

According to the instructions of Babrak Karmal, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, Department of Agriculture and Land Reform, PDPA Central Committee's cooperatives and union of peasantry cooperatives, are dutybound to prepare and present a careful report on the methods of work and completed work in the field of agricultural and consumer peasantry cooperatives. Babrak Karmal said that the work of the party and government organs in the field of land reform, as well as work of the cooperatives, will be carefully investigated and assessed. The level of examination and expectation will be raised.

Babrak Karmal Receives CPSU's Khomyakov

LD061847 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] At DRA Revolutionary Council headquarters this evening, Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, received Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Khomyakov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and first secretary of Tombov Oblast Party Committee, and his entourage and Yuriy Verchenko, first secretary of the USSR Union of Writers. USSR Ambassador in Kabul Fikryat Akhmedzhanovich Tabeyev was also present. During the meeting, which was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, fraternal and good relations between the DRA and the Soviet Union were discussed.

AFP Reports on 'Major' Soviet Offensive

BK061500 Hong Kong AFP in English 1440 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 6 (AFP) — At least 2,500 Soviet troops were engaged last week in a major offensive against increasingly united guerrilla forces in Afghanistan's strategic Shomali plain, Western diplomats said here.

Both sides suffered heavy casualties in a week of fighting which began with the arrival of Soviet troops escorted by several hundred tanks and armored vehicles in the Guldara valley, about 50 kms (30 miles) north of Kabul, the diplomats said.

The nearby villages of Estalef, Farza, Qarahbagh and Shakar Darra were bombarded by artillery and strafed by Soviet fighters, but diplomats said civilian casualties were limited because most villagers had fled to Kabul during earlier attacks.

The Soviets lost three helicopters and dozens of tanks around Guldara, where Moslem rebels had succeeded in mining fields and roads, according to Afghan sources cited by the diplomats.

Diplomats posted in Kabul said three trucks bearing wounded Soviet soldiers arrived last Thursday at a Soviet military hospital in the capital. Soviet troops were said to have withdrawn the following day from the region, but to be keeping up air and heavy artillery attacks.

Western military experts said last week's drive might be a last bid by Soviet forces to ease guerrilla pressure on the Bagram Airbase in the Shomali plain before winter. The region is of strategic importance to Soviet occupying forces which are supplied by convoys following the Salang Pass road from the Soviet border across the Shomali plain to Kabul.

Diplomats said few Afghan Government troops were employed in this most recent operation, an indication of the growing

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Karmal Addresses, Dost Briefs Politburo Session

LD082001 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] A routine session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was chaired yesterday by Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

Shah Mohammad Dost, member of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA minister of foreign affairs, presented a comprehensive report to the session concerning DRA and Pakistani delegation talks held in Geneva through the representative of the UN secretary general on 16-24 June. The report also contained information on the activity of the DRA delegation at the 38th UN general session and its meeting and discussion with the UN secretary general and his representative.

The realistic, peaceful, principled, and flexible foreign policy of the DRA Government in general, and particularly in maintaining normal relations with the neighboring countries of Pakistan and Iran and readiness for constructive negotiations and the peaceful settlement of the issues surrounding Afghanistan, was once again confirmed by the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. The report presented by Shah Mohammd Dost, which is the specific manifestation of this policy on behalf of the DRA Government in connection with the aforementioned topics, and his activity during the meetings and discussions were approved.

Babrak Karmal said: The DRA Government is constantly loyal to the principles of its peaceful foreign policy and, by observing principled flexibility, is ready to continue negotiations and to normalize the situation surrounding Afghanistan and its relations with the neighboring countries in the interest of peace and security in the region and the world. However, the forces of reaction and imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism, throw stones in this path and by continuing the undeclared war and creating tension and crisis in the region they intend to exploit them for their own interests.

Babrak Karmal said: The DRA Government, which implements the policy of the PDPA in foreign policy, consistently and indefatigably will always stand by the principled position of the solution of issues through negotiations. Of course, it will also wage a resolute struggle against the interference and aggression of imperialism and hegemonism and with the aim of finally crushing the counterrevolutionaries. There will be no hesitation, delay, or slackness in this regard. This is our resolute principled stand and all the peace-loving and progressive forces of the world, led by the great Soviet Union, are with us in this just struggle.

The Politburo sesión also considered indepth the results of the implementation of the state power consolidation complex plan during the first 6 months of 1362 (March-September 1983). Babrak Karmal demanded in this regard further (?attention) by the party and state organs and in connection with the implementation and reform of the plan he pointed out a number of topics which were unanimously approved by the Politburo. A resolution was adopted in this connection. According to this resolution, a series of new tasks have been set for the party and state organs in order to still further consolidate the state power in the country and to attract the broad masses of the people to take active part in the popular revolutionary sovereignty.

The Politburo discussed in detail and considered another very important topic in connection with the improvement of work among the nationalities and tribes of the country and a resolution of the Politburo which anticipates effective and new measures for the improvement of work in this sphere, was issued.

Babrak Karmal stressed the importance of work among the nationalities, tribes, and clans of the country and the important measures which the Politburo has taken in this regard, and he drew the attention of the Politburo to the practical implementation of the aforementioned measures by the party and government organs.

The Politburo expressed great satisfaction with the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the treaty of friendship, good neighborliness, and cooperation between the DRA and the USSR, which was marked with grand ceremonies in our country and in the Soviet Union. Thanks were expressed for the congratulation telegram from the high-ranking party and government leadership of the Soviet Union on the occasion, which was brought to everyone's attention by the mass media.

Babrak Karmal assessed the fraternal, friendly relations and revolutionary solidarity between the DRA and the USSR as a source of [word indsitinct] power of the people of Afghanistan in the struggle against reactionary and imperialist aggression and for the realization of revolutionary changes and the guarantor of a new society in the country.

'Counterrevolutionaries,' Weapons Seized

LD081906 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] A large band of counterrevolutionaries who were bringing a quantity of weapons from abroad into the country by way of Zibak Subdistrict, Badakhshan Province, recently was crushed by party activists, officers, and men of the sarandoy command of that province. Along with a considerable number of weapons, 209 of the counterrevolutionaries were captured.

According to a report by the security forces of that province, 1 recoilless gun, 1 mortar, 4 DSHK heavy caliber machinguns, 3 missile launchers, 2 heavy machineguns, 4 (?RPG-2), 50 assorted weapons, 15,000 rounds of ammunition for heavy weapons, 200,000 rounds of ammunition for light weapons, and a great number of mines were seized from these criminals.

According to report from Balkh Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements who were robbing passengers along the Mazar-e Sharif and Balkh District highway have been captured, along with their weapons, by the vigilant security forces of that district.

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Kuwait Bombings

Aftermath — Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, cited by KUNA, placed the total number of victims in the seven bombings in Kuwait on 12 December at 4 dead and 62 injured. Summarizing reports on the explosions, KUNA noted that the first bomb, which was at the U.S. Embassy, was the only suicide attack. A truck loaded with explosives was driven at high speed through the embassy gate and into the embassy building, where it exploded. The driver was apparently not killed and was captured, the agency said, while the building eventually collapsed. The agency added that the car bomb that exploded at the airport damaged the communications center and control tower and killed one and injured several others, while the car bomb at the French Embassy badly damaged the consulate building but only injured three. Similar car bombs exploded outside buildings housing Americans in two suburbs, causing slight damage but no casualties, while another car bomb exploded near the Ash-Shu'aybah oil installation, injuring 10 people, but did not affect operations, the agency stated. KUNA also confirmed earlier reports that another bomb was discovered and defused before it exploded near a government passport office.

A Kuwaiti security official cited by KUNA announced that some suspects had been captured, while all involved "will soon be rounded up," and observed that the explosions all used a common device. Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah condemned the attacks and promised to take the "strictest and toughest measures" against the "criminals and culprits" and to "purge the country of all suspicious elements," KUNA reported.

Reaction — Iraq will "strike militarily against selected Iranian targets" in retaliation for "Iran's heinous crime" against Kuwait, a military spokesman declared in a statement to INA. In addition to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, and the YAR all sent messages of support, KUNA stated, while SPA, WAKH, Baghdad radio, and San'a' radio each reported their government's statement condemning the blasts. The GCC "condemned and denounced" the explosions, SPA announced, and the organization's Secretariat General began "intensive contacts" among the member states aimed at agreeing on "unified Gulf action to confront such incidents," WAKH divulged. Elsewhere in the Middle East, Lebanon's Shafiq al-Wazzan "repudiated" the bombings, according to Beirut radio, while the Egyptian ambassador in Kuwait was reported by MENA as denouncing such "terrorist acts."

PLO Affairs

The PLO has received a guarantee from Syria and Saudi Arabia that forces loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will be able to leave Tripoli unharmed and it hopes to begin the evacuation "within the next 48 hours," 'Arafat's spokesman in Tripoli announced on 12 December in remarks reported by ANSA. Meanwhile, a PLO source in Tunis revealed that PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi will visit Damascus in an attempt to improve Palestinian-Syrian relations, according to KUNA.

As for Israel's opposition to 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in remarks broadcast by IDF Radio that he hopes Israel "will not have to use force" to prevent the evacuation. It seems incomprehensible that the United Nations and "some Western powers" want to assist the departure of 'Arafat and his "terrorists" from Lebanon so that they can resume terrorist activities elsewhere, Arens contended.

In another development, an official source cited by Beirut radio stated that Tunisia has made no preparations to receive Palestinian fighters from Tripoli. In a statement broadcast by Tunis radio, the Tunisian foreign minister appealed to Syria and the Palestinian dissidents to end their differences with the PLO leadership and break the siege around Tripoli.

Syria

TISHRIN Warning — Syria has the right to defend itself if it is exposed to a new "aggression," and this makes all the U.S. and NATO military forces in Lebanon and the Mediterranean possible targets because they are hostile to Syria, the daily *TISHRIN* declared in a 12 December article reviewed by Damascus radio.

Al-Asad, Internal Situation — President Hafiz al-Asad's health is "good," a presidential spokesman announced in a statement reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Meanwhile, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio claimed that gunfire was heard in Damascus on 12 December and that Syrian authorities imposed stringent security measures in the capital.

Lebanon

The French Foreign Ministry's secretary general visited Beirut to meet with President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Beirut radio reported. The purpose of the visit was not known, but French Embassy sources "suggested" it was connected with "deliberations" on the Lebanese situation. Meanwhile, a source close to Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt announced that the "displaced persons" in the besieged Phalangist-held town of Dayr al-Qamar will be evacuated on 14 December, according to Damascus radio. The source elaborated that the Italian contingent of the Multinational Force will supervise the withdrawal of Phalangist fighters within 24 hours, while the International Red Cross will supervise the evacuation of civilians, which must be completed within 5 days.

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AFP: Rebels Burst Into Communist Party Offices in Herat

BK131118 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 13 (AFP) — Afghan rebels burst into the local communist party offices in Herat, western Afghanistan, and killed 26 staff on a visit from party headquarters in Kabul last month, a Western diplomat said here today. The diplomat said only four people were spared.

According to the same source about 25 Soviet advisors working in a copper mine in the Logar valley south of Kabul were kidnapped recently by rebels, while in Kabul two bombs were defused at the headquarters of the KHAD, the secret police. One of them was found in the office of the KHAD's chief Doctor Najibullah. Shortly afterwards 50 to 80 agents were arrested on suspicion of collaborating with the resistance movement.

None of this information has been confirmed by rebels based in Peshawar.

Western diplomats in Kabul said there was a lull in the fighting in both the capital and the provinces. They believed the rebels were preparing several spectacular operations for next week to mark the fourth anniversary of the Soviet invasion. Rebel circles in Peshawar make no secret of the existence of several well trained groups ready to mount operations in Kabul, as they did last year, notably against the Soviet Embassy.

Stricter security measures introduced in autumn in Kabul have not been eased and there are roadblocks everywhere, with [as received] motorised patrols have been stepped up night and day.

Meanwhile a Soviet offensive launched in the Guldara region on the Shomali plateau north of the capital ended on December 5 after eight days of fierce fighting. Diplomats said the rebels managed to shoot down three helicopters in the course of the offensive, which was intended to relieve rebel pressure on the big Soviet military base at nearby Bagram.

TANJUG Reports 'Heavy Fighting' North of Kabul

LD121843 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1730 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, December 12 (TANJUG) — Soviet forces and Kabul government troops are engaged in heavy fighting against insurgents in a valley north of Afghanistan's capital.

According to diplomatic sources here, an offensive against the mujaheddin positions in this part of the country is under way.

The Soviet and government troops are using aircraft, helicopters and tanks in their operations. Both sides are reported to have suffered heavy losses during the fighting, which diplomatic sources here assess as most serious in the past year.

Fierce clashes were also reported recently along the important communication linking Jalalabad and Towrkham, a town on the Afghan-Pakistani border.

Afghan insurgents claim that the Soviet and Kabul government troops have failed to gain full control over this strategically important route, held by the insurgents since December 1.

KABUL NEW TIMES Cited on Western Propaganda

LD131131 Prague CTK in English 1054 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Kabul [no dateline as received] (CETEKA correspondent) — The escalation of armed pressure by imperialist countries on Afghanistan is accompanied by intensified anti-Afghan propaganda in the bourgeois press and in foreign radio broadcasts, the Afghan daily *KABUL NEW TIMES* said.

The daily mentioned the example of the Voice of America, which in November 1978 broadcast its programs to Afghans ten hours a day, in December 1979 14 hours and in 1980 full 42 [as received] hours.

Workers of Western propaganda institutions undergo special training and their activities are regularly controlled by NATO intelligence organizations. The CIA, for example, controls the broadcasts of 40 stations in various parts of the world, *KABUL NEW TIMES* said.

Briefs

Cuban Publicity Agreement — An agreement of mutual cooperation between the DRA Union of Journalists and the journalist union of Cuba for 1983-1985 was signed today in Kabul. Under the protocol, journalists of both countries will take part in the process of political, economic, social, and cultural improvement and will cooperate in the publicity area. Haydar Masud, head of Afghan radio, television, and cinematography and head of the DRA Union of Journalists, and the Cuban ambassador in Kabul were present at the signing ceremony. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Dec 83 LD]

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BAKHTAR Criticizes U.S. Counterrevolution Activities

LD150544 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 14, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BIA writes:

Imperialism especially the U.S. imperialism has been using various means and methods in an attempt to diminish the prestige and importance of the national and revolutionary movements and of the progressive governments in the Asian, African and Latin American Continents.

Such activities were organized against the national and democratic revolution of Afghanistan, too, mainly through the American Central Intelligence Agency, U.S. State and Defence departments and the White House at different intervals of time. Such a provocation was for instance staged recently at University of Nebraska at Omaha town.

Everybody knows that in the United States, educational institutions such as the faculty of social sciences of Columbia University, special centre for the study of international relations at Harvard University, special centre for the study of Slav Eastern European countries at California University etc., have been used as tools for the preservation of American system and for abetting counter-revolution beyond the U.S. frontiers.

Studied at these centres are problems of the methodology of the provocations and subversions against other independent states which are not to the liking of the USA.

With the direct help of the US State and Defence Departments and Central Intelligence Agency these centres evolve methods of open interference in the internal affairs of such countries.

For example among the notorious figures pitted against the people and the revolution of Afghanistan who dished out heaps of falsehoods against revolutionary Afghanistan at the Nebraska University was Brzezinski, national security adviser to the former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. He is the man who organised the propaganda and subversive activities of the Afghan counter-revolution visited and have been visiting the White House and more than 300 million dollar worth of weapons have been given by Washington to these terrorists and professional murderers. [sentence as received] Of course these weapons are used for killing innocent civilians, destroying centres of culture and education even places of worship.

The fervour and zeal with which Brzezinski called for further arming of the Afghan counter-revolution for killing innocent Afghans clearly marked him out as psycopath. Unfortunately the number of such psychopaths in the Reagan administration is not few.

The frenzied efforts of such neurotic personalities for intensifing terror, bloodshed and intervention against the DRA not only highlights the pressing need of the defence of the revolution by the Afghan people, but also explains the need for the presence of limited Soviet military contingents for the preservation of independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan until such interventions do not cease and guarantees for their non-recurrence are made available.

SPA Reports on Bombing at Kabul University

LD151302 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 15, SPA — More than 20 people, mostly Russians, including two Soviet advisers, a lady doctor and six Russian language translators, were killed last week as a powerful bomb exploded in Kabul University's education facility, it was reported here today.

The daily *PAKISTAN TIMES* said the high-intensity bomb was planed by Afghan Mujahidin in the central basement of the university's education facility six hours before it went off in the area.

The bomb also demolished one complete wing of education faculty, it added.

Meanwhile, reports reaching Islamabad from inside Afghanistan said the Mujahidin were planning to mount a sepctacular attack on or before December 27 to coincide with the fourth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The communist regime in Kabul has tightened security in the capi[illegible] and other provincial cities to meet any challenge from the resistance.

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PLO Affairs

The evacuation of Palestinian forces from Tripoli by five Greek ships will begin on 18 December, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* according to KUNA. A Greek Government spokesman declared that the ships will pick up 'Arafat and his forces early on 19 December, according to Athens radio. The spokesman added that consultations with the U.S., French, Syrian, Israeli, Italian, British, and Lebanese governments secured guarantees for the safety of the Greek ships and crews and for 'Arafat and his men.

Israeli "political circles" stressed that Israel has given "no guarantees or any other promises regarding the Greek ships," according to Jerusalem radio. The "very least" that Israel expects from those assisting 'Arafat is that they require him to lay down his arms and promise that he and his people will never again engage in terrorist activity, Defense Minister Moshe Arens declared in remarks broadcast by the radio. Unless 'Arafat satisfies these conditions, Arens said, no assistance should be given to him.

Lebanon

Military Situation — The Lebanese Government and the main opposition coalition have agreed to a "permanent and serious cease-fire" to take effect immediately, AFP reported on 16 December citing an opposition source. The new cease-fire announcement followed further fighting around Beirut the previous day in which U.S. warships again shelled hostile positions, according to Beirut radio. The battleship *New Jersey* participated in the shelling, during which U.S. warships destroyed a number of positions in the mountains around Beirut occupied by the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and its allies, Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, AFP reported that three French soldiers were injured in a bomb attack in Beirut and confirmed the deaths of two French soldiers earlier. The headquarters of the British contingent was hit by a rocket but no casualties were sustained, Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Political Developments — Lebanon hopes to declare the date and venue of the second round of the National Dialogue Conference soon, President Amin al-Jumayyil announced in a statement in London broadcast by Beirut radio. The Lebanese hope the second round will lay the basis for complete reconciliation and will "define the prerogatives" of an expanded national unity government that will carry out internal reforms and arrange the withdrawal of the Multinational Force after the departure of non-Lebanese occupation forces, he added.

Dayr al-Qamar — The IDF completed the first stage of the evacuation of Dayr al-Qamar, transporting about 2,000 Phalangist militiamen from the town in IDF trucks while 500 Christian refugees left in buses, according to Jerusalem television and radio reports. However, the Lebanese Government did not fulfill its commitment to issue an official announcement presenting the evacuation as an agreement achieved in the deliberations of the joint Israeli-Lebanese military committee, the television asserted.

Syria

The head of Lebanese Army intelligence arrived in Damascus for talks "shrouded in absolute secrecy," Radio Monte Carlo reported. Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri also came to Damascus, while presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld held further talks with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam before departing, the radio said.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft raided Iranian targets in Dehloran and Ilam on 15 December, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. The attacks were in response to Iran's failure to respond to peace efforts, its continued shelling of Iraqi civilian targets, and its responsibility for "heinous crimes" against fraternal Arab countries, the spokesman stated. Confirming the air raids, IRNA reported that 10 civilians were hospitalized after the attack on Ilam but that no casualties were caused in Dehloran.

A joint revolution guards-Armed Forces statement reported by Tehran radio warned that Iranian soldiers and revolution guards will "take revenge on all the vile agents of East and West for the blood of these martyrs." Meanwhile, the Iranian deputy foreign minister told the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran that Kuwait should condemn the Iraqi missile attacks, which were launched on the "pretext" of defending Kuwait in an attempt to create more tension in the region, the radio noted.

Jordan

Dialogue between the two superpowers is necessary in order to tackle the peace process in the Middle East and the European countries should actively encourage Soviet participation in order to avoid the increasing threat of polarization and a "tragic explosion," King Husayn told the European Parliament in a speech broadcast by Amman radio. The king criticized U.S. "reluctance" to work "firmly and immediately" toward establishing peace and asserted that the recent U.S.-Israeli strategic agreements will result in U.S. funding for Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, thereby "flouting the form and substance" of President Reagan's peace plan. Jordan had pinned "great hopes" on the Reagan plan, he added, but the vitality of the initiative has disappeared and the momentum for peace has dwindled.

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PLO Affairs

The first of the five Greek ships that are to evacuate Palestinian fighters loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tripoli early on 20 December, Beirut radio announced. Earlier, in preparation for the evacuation, pro- and anti-'Arafat Palestinian forces in the city exchanged prisoners, the loyalists having held 40 people and the dissidents 24, the radio added, while Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan was informed that 'Arafat had agreed to hand his heavy weapons over to the Lebanese Government. Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats watched the evacuation preparations and the arrival of the Greek ships from their positions offshore without interfering, the radio reported.

In contacts initiated by the Greek Government on 19 December, Israel refused to give any clear-cut commitment that it would not harm the Greek ships taking part in the evacuation, Jerusalem television reported. Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi told Jerusalem radio that during his recent visit to Paris he informed French officials of Israel's displeasure at French and Greek plans to aid in 'Arafat's departure. Levi stated that French officials told him that they are demanding that 'Arafat "repudiate terrorism" in exchange for their assistance. In another report Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, who was quoted by the radio, stated that the Greek and French governments have received 'Arafat's assurances that there will be no more terrorist attacks in their countries.

Previewing the situation after the evacuation, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir told the London-based *AL-MAJALLAH* that he will go to Jordan for further meetings of the Palestinian-Jordanian Committee and noted that "it is possible" Palestinian fighters may once again be stationed in that country and Iraq. In an interview with Kuwait's *AL-WATAN*, reported by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio, Al-Wazir predicted the PLO "will consider" calling a special session of the PNC in order to "resolve some organizational issues" and "define positions directly."

Lebanon

Security — The IDF clashed with gunmen in Sidon after an attack on an Israeli patrol in the city caused casualties, Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 20 December. Meanwhile, the Israelis cut the coastal highway south of Sidon after an explosion near an Israeli position in the Tyre area, according to Beirut radio.

Earlier, Beirut radio reported that shooting occurred when the IDF roadblock at the Al-Awwali River Bridge stopped a French UNIFIL military convoy on 19 December. Israeli and UNIFIL officers then conducted negotiations in order to overcome the problem, the radio added.

Commenting on the 19 December Israeli air attack on targets in Bhamdun, Jerusalem radio said Israeli pilots hit two buildings housing Palestinian dissidents under the command of Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha. The raid was intended to warn the Druze to keep their promise to keep the Ash-Shuf free of "terrorists," the radio revealed. Meanwhile, another convoy of Christian refugees was evacuated from Dayr al-Qamar to Beirut without problems and if the evacuation process continues smoothly it will be completed by the weekend, according to the radio.

Damascus Meeting — Prime Minister al-Wazzan expressed satisfaction with the "positive aspects" of the recent meeting of the Lebanese, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers in Damascus, "even though the Syrian position on the 17 May agreement has not changed," Beirut radio reported.

Kuwait

A senior official cited by *AL-WATAN* stated that the issuance of visas for all Arab and other foreign nationals has been suspended indefinitely, adding that visas will be issued only to "dignitaries who are well known" to Kuwaiti officials, according to QNA. In another development, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, cited by KUNA, confirmed that a security court has been formed to try those accused of the 12 December bombings. The defendants' dossiers have been completed and will be passed to the public prosecutor's office.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Education and Training Ministry, in a statement reported by Tehran radio's Arabic service, denounced the Kuwaiti Government's detention of the supervisor of Iranian schools in Kuwait and other Iranian school officials and called for their immediate release.

Israel

Two people were wounded on 20 December when "booby-trapped hand grenades" exploded at the entrances of a mosque and convent in Al-'Ayzariyah, east of Jerusalem, according to Jerusalem radio. IDF Radio announced that an unidentifed person claimed responsibility on behalf of the "Terror Against Terror" organization.

Iraq

Presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld arrived in Baghdad where he was met by the chief of the Foreign Ministry's protocol department, INA reported.

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BAKHTAR Cites Gandhi on U.S. Plans for Pakistan

LD201417 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0429 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Kabul, Dec 19, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BIA writes: Mrs. Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India, in an interview with reporters in Madras has expressed her grave concern over the plans for deployment of U.S. Pershing-2 missiles equipped with nuclear warheads in the territory of Pakistan. She added that there is no explanation for Pakistan's claim that Washington's plan for the deployment of Pershing-2 missiles in Pakistan is allegedly due to some imaginary threat emanating from events in Afghanistan. Indian prime minister clearly noted that it is Pakistan which has been interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

In case such missiles are deployed in Pakistan under whatever pretexts it will corroborate the undeniable fact of the militarisation of Pakistan by the United States in a bid to achieve its interventionist and hegemonistic goals in Asia. It can be nothing else except the continuation of the deployment of the American Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe.

It is difficult to imagine that the militarisation of Pakistan by the U.S. is separable from the general policy of Washington which is directed at fanning the arms race and aggravation of international situations.

The U.S. imperialism has chosen Pakistan as a tool for the implementation of its expansionist policy in Asia and for the same reason approved the sale of Mohawk espionage plane equipped with the most advanced tools and equipments to Pakistan some time ago.

These planes can also be used as strategic bomber aircraft. In addition Harpoon missiles which are launched from the sea will also be given to the Pakistan military regime.

In recent years arming of Pakistan by Washington takes place at an amazing pace. Only during the current year one third of the Pakistan's budget has been allocated for the military expenditures showing a ten percent rise as compared with the last year. Thus, the military regime is exerting the heaviest pressures over the economy of a country whose citizens annual per capita income is only 350 U.S. dollars and about 70 thousand of whose inhabitants annually die of lung diseases arising from the shortage of foodstuff.

Official Meets With Soviet Delegation 20 Dec

LD201928 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Serwar Mangal, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and chairman of the DRA State Planning Committee, yesterday morning at his office met the USSR Central Statistical Administration's [CSA] delegation, headed by M.A. Korolev, first deputy head of the department. During this meeting, views were exchanged on relevant topics.

The protocol of reciprocal cooperation between the DRA Central Statistics Department and the USSR CSA was signed today at the office of the DRA Central Statistical Department's general director. The protocol envisages cooperation in exchange of delegations and experts, training of statistical cadres, and exchange of methodic material for the years 1362-1366 [March 1983-March 1988]. The protocol was signed by the general director of the DRA Central Statistical Department and the first deputy head of the USSR CSA.

SPA Reports on Recent Mujahidin Activities

LD210022 Riyadh SPA in English 1928 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 20 SPA — The Afghan mojahedin have shot down six Soviet helicopters in mid-December near Kabul and in eastern Afghanistan, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources said they downed two helicopters in Khowst area in Paktia province, close the Pakistani borders and the other four became victims of the resistance rocket fire at an unspecified area in Lowgar valley, south of Kabul on December 13. Nearly nine Soviet armoured vehicles were also destroyed in the Lowgar valley in a related action.

On the other, 12 Soviets were killed and three Russian armoured vehicles were destroyed on December 16 during a clash with the Mojahedin at Qarah Bagh in southern Shomali region, just north of Kabul.

During a clash in December, three communist party members and 45 Afghan Army soldiers were captured by the Mojahedin and later released only after surrendering their weapons, the sources said.

They added that a high-ranking Soviet officer and two Russian soldiers were being held hostage by the Mujahidin in Golbahar at the mouth of Panjsher valley, 60 miles north east of Kabul.

Nearly 400 mules, laden with weapons of all types arrived in the valley on December 7 while food supplies were (?trucked) in on December 4, the sources said.

On the other hand, the Mojahedin rocketed headquarters of "KHAD", (Afghan secret service modelled on KGB), in Qandahar, killing two officers and abducting another two, they added.

The sources said the security situation in Afghanistan's second biggest city, Qandahar, was out of hand from the communist regime's standpoint, adding that the city's bazaars open only for a short while in the morning and they close as Mojahedin enter the city during the daylight hours. They also reported heavy fighting now in progress in eastern Afghanistan in Jalalabad area, close to the Pakistani borders.

The sources said at least one regime's post on Torkham-Jalalabad road, linking Afghanistan with Pakistan, was now in the hands of the Mojahedin.

Meanwhile, the daily *PAKISTAN TIMES* quoted Afghan sources as saying in Peshawar today that the Mojahedin had

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PLO Affairs

'Arafat in Egypt — "Egypt has returned to the Arabs and we will not allow any force to exclude Egypt from its Arab nation again," PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated in an interview in Egypt's *AL-AHRAM* as reported by MENA. On 22 December 'Arafat held a closed meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo and then went to the port of Suez where he was to board a ship bound for the YAR.

A Fatah Central Committee statement emphasized that the visit resulted from 'Arafat's "unilateral decision," conflicting with the principle of collective leadership, and said that 'Arafat would be held solely responsible for the visit. The statement, which was reported by AFP, also promised that the committee would discuss the issue and issue a final statement. PLO military second in command Khalil al-Wazir and Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi did not attend the Central Committee meeting that issued the statement, AFP observed. In remarks to KUNA, PLO Executive Committee member Salah Khalaf also underlined 'Arafat's responsibility for the visit and asserted that the visit contravenes PNC and Fatah resolutions. Similarly, PFLP Secretary General George Habash characterized the visit as "blunt defiance and flagrant violation" of recent PNC resolutions and called for 'Arafat's dismissal from all his PLO posts, Damascus radio reported, while DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah expressed his organization's condemnation of the visit in remarks to ANA. The PFLP-General Command, As-Sa'iqah, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum all also criticized 'Arafat's visit, according to SANA reports, as did the Palestine Liberation Front, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Israel views the meeting between 'Arafat and Mubarak as "an overt violation" of the Israel-Egypt peace treaty, Jerusalem radio revealed. The Foreign Ministry instructed Israel's ambassador in Washington to inform Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger of its position. In an interview with the radio, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, opined that the meeting "does not constitute a violation of the peace treaty."

Future Plans — In his interview with *AL-AHRAM* 'Arafat confirmed that once his forces are relocated the Fatah command will meet to discuss "all dimensions" of the Tripoli experience. Following that meeting the "Palestinian constitutional institutions," including the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC, will be convened and no one, including the Fatah dissidents, will be deprived of membership 'Arafat also predicted a "comprehensive restructuring of the PLO's institutions." Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan announced in a statement to the Qatari paper *AR-RAYAH* that a Fatah general congress will be convened in January 1984 with the PNC to meet in February, WAKH reported. Al-Hasan also confirmed that 'Arafat will go to Jordan for talks with King Husayn and announced that Palestinian-Jordanian confederation is "one of the constant and important facts" in the future. On the talks with Jordan, Salah Khalaf stated that "these negotiations do not deal with the Reagan plan," but instead focus on the Arab peace plan announced at the Fes summit. In an interview with *LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS*, cited by KUNA, Khalaf also announced that the PLO would immediately cease military activities if serious negotiations to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem begin.

North Lebanon — The dissident Palestinian forces will begin withdrawing from their positions around Tripoli, regrouping, and moving to the front against Israel within the next 24 hours, according to a dissident spokesman cited by Radio Monte Carlo. Meanwhile, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who heads the Tripoli Higher Coordination Council, called on the Palestinians to withdraw to "the camps and Al-Biqa'," in accordance with the Syrian-Saudi agreement on the disengagement and withdrawal of pro- and anti-'Arafat forces in the area, KUNA announced.

Iran

The "combatants of Islam" killed or wounded over 30 "counter-revolutionaries," captured 5 others, and took 11 villages and areas in Kordestan from the rebels in an operation 13-19 December, Tehran radio announced.

Lebanon

Michael Haseltine, British secretary of state for defense, arrived in Beirut on 23 December to inspect the British contingent of the Multinational Force, Beirut radio reported. He reiterated that the contingent will remain in Beirut "until it completes its mission."

A car loaded with TNT was discovered before it could explode in Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The radio also reported continued clashes in the Al-Kharrub region, where the Red Cross has requested that the warring factions cease firing to allow the evacuation of three Red Cross officials who were injured when their car set off a landmine. Clashes also continued around Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb, according to Beirut radio.

Israel

Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir resigned, Jerusalem television reported, "to devote more time and energy" to the National Religious Party, which he represents.

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DRA, Mongolia Exchange Treaty Documents

LD281752 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The protocols and consulate agreement of the friendship and cooperation treaty between the DRA and People's Republic of Mongolia, concluded in Ulanbaatar during the official and friendly visit of high-ranking party and government delegation of the DRA, led by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, were signed and the documents exchanged this morning in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, and Puntsagiyn Shagdarsuren, ambassador of the People's Republic of Mongolia in Kabul. During the exchange of protocols and documents speeches were delivered by the minister of foreign affairs and the Mongolian ambassador on the importance of the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries in the consolidation and further development of friendly relations and reciprocal cooperation.

Security Forces Arrest 5 Counterrevolutionaries

LD232331 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Five persons from the counterrevolutionaries belonging to the Jami'it [as received] band along with their ringleader, Dad Mohammad, son of Fazl Ahmad, today were arrested with a number of weapons and ammunition in Solyman village, Shakar Darra district, Kabul Province, by the vigilant security forces of the country.

A Chinese D.Sh.K. [heavy machine gun], 1 Chinese rocket launcher with 6 rounds, 9 303 rifles, 1 100-round British machinegun, 10 U.S. and Italian antitank mines, 7 mortar shells, more than 6,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, 4 kg of explosive substances, a number of antitank and antipersonnel hand grenades, and a large number of papers and documents which prove their links with counterrevolutionary bands abroad were seized by the security forces of the country from these criminals.

A spokesman for the security forces told the BIA correspondent that the weapons and ammunition were discovered in the house of Mohammad Gol, son of Khan Gol, assistant ringleader of a 40-man group in Solyman village of Shakar Darra district.

Mujahidin Leaders on Invasion Anniversary

LD261302 Riyadh SPA in English 1223 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 26, SPA — Two leading Afghan mujahideen leaders have totally rejected a political solution of the Afghan problem without the presence of the mujahideen as the main party and reaffirmed their resolve to continue fighting against the Soviets until a final victory. In an interview given to SPA on the ocasion of the fourth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan tomorrow, the leaders Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani reasserted the mujahideen's pledge not to "lay down arms but continue their jihad against the Soviets till a final victory."

The 38-year old Hekmatyar, a fundamentalist hardliner of (?Pashtun) ethnic group in Afghanistan said mujahideen were better organised and armed in 1983 and that their morale was high. He also confirmed the death of 50,000 Soviets during the last five years since the communist coup in Kabul.

The 50-year old Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, a Turk of Tajik ethnic stock in Afghanistan, told SPA that the Mujahideen successes were greater than in the previous year.

He accused the Soviets of spending large sums of money as bribes to purchase loyalty of the Afghan people and tribes, keeping in view the worsening economic situation and near-starvation conditions in some parts of Afghanistan. Professor Rabbani also accused the Soviets of hiring assassins to kill the mujahideen.

On the other hand, the Peshawar-based AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said the mujahideen had destroyed nearly 3,000 tanks and trucks as well as destroyed or disabled 200 aircrafts between April 1978 communist coup and end of 1983. Large sections of cities like Kandhar, Herat and Mazar-e Sharif remain in hands of the mujahideen, it added.

FRG Paper Interviews Defecting Colonel

DW231446 Bonn DIE WELT in German 23 Dec 83 p 5

[Walter H. Rueb report on interview with defected Afghan Colonel Mohammad Rahim — date and place not given]

[Text] Just about 2 weeks ago news agencies reported the defection of an Afghan general to Pakistan. The reports further said that he jointed the resistance movement there. There were no further details. *DIE WELT* succeeded in locating the prominent defector in Pershwar and interviewing him.

Mohammad Rahim is a plain man, medium sized, modestly dressed, 42 years old, married, and the father of a son. A life full of events has left its traces in the face of the Afghan. When addressed with the title "general," he replies with a single word: "Dagharval."

This means colonel and is a correction of the news agency reports. But it is correct that Mohammad Rahim was the commanding officer of the 7th Afghan Army Division. "I came here because I could no longer agree with the ideology of the rulers in Kabul and their masters in Moscow," he calmly says. He is not at all embarrassed by the hint that the war in Afghanistan has lasted for all of 4 years now. Mohammad Rahin certainly did not change his political creed on the spur of the moment. For years he had hidden his real attitude so as to be able to contribute toward the victory of the mujahidin in the service of Afghan resistance, holding one of the supreme command posts of the Karmal army. He adds by way of explanation: "But now the time has come to put an end to the job I have done so far. The mujahidin have given me permission to leave my post and to come here."

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